

Message Text

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17

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 SSO-00 /039 W
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O R 160400Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8845

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SN, YE, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE ABOARD CAPE ERIMO

REF: A. GENEVA 6493 (NOTEL): B. SINGAPORE 3851

1. REGRET REF A., NOT RECEIVED UNTIL AUGUST 14.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT
FEASIBLE OR ADVISABLE TO ATTEMPT LAND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
AT PORT OF HODEIDA. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW (AND HAVE
NOT INQUIRED) IF YARG PREPARED TO ACCEPT REFUGEES, BELIEVE
SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE ILL-CONSIDERED AND LEAD TO
UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP FOR THE REFUGEES INVOLVED. IN ANY
EVENT, YARG UNLIKELY TO AGREE ACCEPT REFUGEES UNLESS FIRM
GUARANTEE PROVIDED THAT STAY WILL BE TEMPORARY AND

ONWARD TRAVEL TO U.S. AND OTHER POINTS ARRANGED.

2. HODEIDA -- THE MAIN PORT OF THE YAR -- IS ARDUOUS
SIX OUR DRIVE OVER MOUNTAIN ROAD FROM CAPITAL
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OF SANA. AIRPORT IS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC AND

THERE ARE ONLY LIMITED AND RATHER EXPENSIVE MEANS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AVAILABLE BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES. TELEPHONE LINKS BETWEEN SANA AND HODEIDA ARE VERY LIMITED AND OFTEN IMPOSSIBLE. CABLE AND TELES TRAFFIC HAS TO BE SENT FROM SANA. HOTEL AND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS ARE MINIMAL, AND YARG WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND SUITABLE LODGINGS. BECAUSE OF FOREGOING, ONWARD TRAVEL FOR REFUGEES TO U.S. OR OTHER POINTS FROM YAR AND ARRANGING FOR ADEQUATE TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR THEM WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT.

3. AS NOTED REF A., UNHCR REP IN SANA, PETER VON KRIEKEN, CURRENTLY ON LEAVE. UNDP ALREADY SUFFERING FROM MANPOWER SHORTAGES, AND WE FRANKLY DO NOT FEEL IT COULD EASILY COPE WITH THIS INFLUX OF REFUGEES. UNDP STAFFER CURRENTLY SUPERVISING REFUGEE MATTERS, MAARTEN BUSSINK, TOLD EMBOFF HE KNEW NOTHING OF CAPE ERIMO AFFAIR AND HAS RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNHCR, GENEVA.
RANSOM

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